

REMARKS

Claims 5 and 6 have been amended and new claim 7 has been added. Claims 5-7 remain in the application.

Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujimoto (JP 09-078160) in view of Kashiwagi (JP 09-184033), and Steinke et al (U.S. 5,240,172).

Claim 5 has been amended by replacing "Pd between 12.5% and 13.5%" by "Pd around 13%" (see specification page 2, line 36), claim 6 has been amended by deleting "in a proportion of 0.018%, and new claim 7 has been added, corresponding exactly to Example 12, as disclosed in Table 1.

Attached is a Declaration of the inventor which shows that the alloy according to the invention shows unexpected castability, metallographic and color properties with regard to Fujimoto. Those properties make that alloy very interesting for jewelry applications.

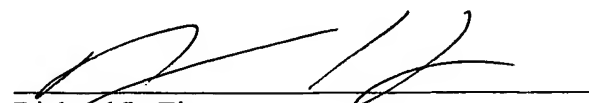
In view of the above, it is believed that all claims are now in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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